

XXXVI.—*Notes on some Shrews brought from Germany by W. Ogilby, Esq., including the description of an apparently New Species.* By the Rev. LEONARD JENYNS, M.A., F.L.S., &c.

MR. OGILBY, on his return from Germany in the autumn of 1837, brought with him a small collection of shrews, which had been all obtained in the neighbourhood of Francfort-upon-Mayne. These he very obligingly submitted to my inspection, allowing me to compare them with our British species, and to describe any amongst them which might appear new. The collection consists of fourteen individuals, referrible to at least five distinct species, one of which is either undescribed, or not described with sufficient accuracy to be recognised. It has appeared to me that it would be advantageous to science to publish the characters of this new species, as well as any notes relating to the others which might serve to make them better known to the naturalists of this country. I shall take them in the order in which they arrange themselves according to Duvernoy's views adverted to in my former memoirs, premising only, that all the specimens, with the exception of two or three duplicates which I was kindly permitted to retain, have been deposited in the museum of the Zoological Society.

I. SOREX, Duv.

(1.) *S. Araneus*, Geoff.—The dentition of this species furnishes the type of Duvernoy's first subdivision of the genus *Sorex*. That of the specimen examined accords accurately with the description of that author, excepting that the upper middle incisors are not in contact at their extremities. The snout is of the same form as that of the *S. tetragonurus* of this country, and attenuated to about the same degree; but it is more decidedly emarginate at the tip between the nostrils. It is also somewhat broader between the eyes, in consequence of their being placed further back than in the species last mentioned. The distance between the eyes is contained very nearly, but not quite, twice in the distance from the eye to the end of the snout. The ears are much more developed and stand more out of the fur than in any of the British shrews,

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and the same character may be observed in all the species belonging to this section. The feet are of moderate size, of about the same length as in the *S. tetragonurus*, but not altogether so strong; the claws especially are shorter and weaker, and apparently not so well calculated for digging. The disposition of the tubercles, which varies but little in the species of this genus, is also similar; but the tubercles themselves are larger, those in particular beneath the last phalanges of the toes on the fore feet. The tail is of about the same length, but of a very different form, being nearly round or free from angles, and decidedly stouter at the root than at the tip, towards which it gradually tapers. It is also furnished with long conspicuous whitish hairs*, scattered here and there among the other shorter ones. There is little or no pencil at the extremity, but possibly it may have been worn from age. The colour of the upper parts and sides of the body is brown tinged with reddish, that of the under parts yellowish grey: the lips and feet appear to have been flesh-colour.

Dimensions.

	In.	Lin.
Length of the head and body	2	9½
—— of the tail	1	6
—— of the hind foot (from the heel to the extremity of the claws).....	0	6
—— of the fore foot (from the wrist in like manner)	0	4
—— of the ears (measured from behind)	0	2
From ear to eye	0	2¾
—— to the end of the snout	0	8¾

There is a second specimen in the collection which appears referrible to the above species, but which nevertheless differs in a few particulars. The snout is longer, especially that portion of it between the ear and the eye. The tail is shorter, and not quite so stout at the base, though still tapering at the tip: the long scattered hairs are not quite so numerous. The dentition, feet, and colours are similar. The entire length of this specimen is 2 inches 7½ lines. The length of the tail 1 inch 3¼ lines.

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(2.) *S. Leucodon*, Herm.—The collection contains two adult and four immature individuals of this species. In the adult the upper middle incisors are rather less curved than those of the *S. Araneus* last described, and with the spur behind less developed. They are quite separate throughout their whole length in one of the specimens, but in contact at their tips in the other. The second and third lateral incisors above are also smaller in relation to the first. The lower middle incisors are long and slightly recurved. The snout is of the same form as in the last species, but its proportions a little different, the distance from the ear to the eye being one-third less. This is in consequence of the upper margin of the auricle being brought rather more forward. The head does not appear so full or large, the crown between the ears being more depressed. The feet are similar, but the tubercles on the soles somewhat smaller. The tail is shorter, and less tapering at the extremity; the long scattered hairs more numerous. The colours are considerably darker above and paler beneath; that of the upper parts is very deep reddish brown, that of the under pure silvery grey; the two are separated on the sides by a tolerably well-marked line.

In the young individuals of this species the teeth are not all apparent, the lateral incisors being still invested with the skin of the periosteum. The middle incisors are much shorter than in the adult*. The snout also is more obtuse, and in three of the specimens the distance from the ear to the eye is relatively greater. In the fourth, however, the proportion of this part is the same as in the adult, showing that too great stress must not be laid upon this character. The colours are exactly similar.

Dimensions of the two adult specimens.

	In. ^(1.) Lin.		In. ^(2.) Lin.	
Length of the head and body.....	3	0	2	9
— of the tail	1	2	1	3½
— of the hind foot	0	6	0	5½
— of the fore foot	0	4	0	4
— of the ears	0	1½		
From ear to eye	0	2	0	1¾
— to the end of the snout	0	8	0	7¼

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The length of the young specimens, exclusive of the tail, varies from 2 inches 4 lines to 2 inches 7 lines.

Duvernoy at one time seems to have entertained a doubt as to this species being distinct from the *S. Araneus*, but in my opinion there cannot be a question about it.

II. AMPHISOREX, Duv.

(3.) *S. tetragonurus*, Herm.—Two specimens in the collection, to one of which I found the name of *tetragonurus* attached, accord so exactly with the square-tailed shrew of this country, described in a former paper (Ann. Nat. Hist., vol. ii. p. 43), as to leave not a doubt in my mind of their identity, or of our English species being the true *tetragonurus* of the continent. In fact there is not the slightest difference in any one of their characters. The larger of the specimens measures 2 inches 11 lines, with a tail of 1 inch $5\frac{1}{2}$ lines. The smaller measures 2 inches $7\frac{1}{2}$ lines, with a tail of 1 inch 6 lines. The former is evidently a very old individual, the teeth being much worn, and the tail nearly naked and almost quite square.

A third specimen seems also referrible to this species, but differs from both those just alluded to in being less bulky for its length, with the head not so broad, and the snout more attenuated. The dentition is nearly similar, but the fifth lateral incisor above is rather more obvious from without, and the first four do not diminish in size quite so rapidly. The feet are similar. The tail also is of the same form, as well as thickness, but better clothed with hairs, the hairs being longer, especially the pencil at the extremity, and standing more out. The colour of the under parts is somewhat darker, or of a more dirty ash-grey, and blends more gradually at the sides with that of the upper. The length of this specimen is 2 inches 5 lines. Its proportions, with the exception above alluded to, are not materially different from those observed in the other individuals.

(4.) *S. labiosus*, Nob.—By this name I propose to designate a species which, though very nearly allied to the *S. tetragonurus*, offers, I think, sufficient peculiarities to be considered distinct. If it had been already noticed by any author, it has not been described in such a manner as to admit of its being identified,

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A third specimen seems also referrible to this species, but differs from both those just alluded to in being less bulky for its length, with the head not so broad, and the snout more attenuated. The dentition is nearly similar, but the fifth lateral incisor above is rather more obvious from without, and the first four do not diminish in size quite so rapidly. The feet are similar. The tail also is of the same form, as well as thickness, but better clothed with hairs, the hairs being longer, especially the pencil at the extremity, and standing more out. The colour of the under parts is somewhat darker, or of a more dirty ash-grey, and blends more gradually at the sides with that of the upper. The length of this specimen is 2 inches 5 lines. Its proportions, with the exception above alluded to, are not materially different from those observed in the other individuals.

(4.) *S. labiosus*, Nob.—By this name I propose to designate a species which, though very nearly allied to the *S. tetragonurus*, offers, I think, sufficient peculiarities to be considered distinct. If it had been already noticed by any author, it has not been described in such a manner as to admit of its being identified,

or possibly it may have been confounded with the one just mentioned. In many of its characters it approaches the *S. cunicularius* of Bechstein, which, in a former paper, I considered, though perhaps erroneously, as synonymous with the square-tailed shrew of this country. There are two specimens of this new species in the collection, precisely similar, excepting that one is a trifle larger than the other. Both, however, have the appearance of being young, and I suspect that in the adult state they would exceed the ordinary dimensions of the species last noticed. They are of different sexes, and the female, which is the smaller of the two, does not appear, from the contracted state of the uterus and its appendages, to have been ever impregnated.

In its general form, this species, as already observed, resembles the *S. tetragonurus*, so much so indeed as to render a detailed description unnecessary. It chiefly differs in the snout being broader before the eyes, more swollen about the lips, and more obtuse at the extremity. The head also appears longer, the distance being greater from the ear to the eye. The cranium, however, when extracted from the investing integuments, is precisely similar both in size and form. The dentition is the same. The feet are decidedly broader and stronger; the claws long, and well formed for digging. The tail is rather better clothed with hair, and the hairs not so appressed. The colours are for the most part similar, but somewhat darker on the under parts.

Dimensions.

	(Male.)		(Female.)	
	In.	Lin.	In.	Lin.
Length of the head and body.....	2	6½	2	4½
——— of the head.....	0	11½		
——— of the tail	1	8	1	6
——— of the hind foot	0	6½	0	5¾
——— of the fore foot	0	4½	0	4
——— of the ears	0	1¾	0	1½
From ear to eye	0	4¾	0	4½
——— to the end of the snout	0	10	0	9

I have termed this species *labiosus* or *full-lipped*, in reference to its most distinguishing peculiarity. This character, however, is only noticeable when compared with that of the other species in the *same* section. The lips are not more

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(5.) *S. pygmæus*, Pall. A single individual of this species, first discovered by Pallas, and within these few years so well described and represented by Gloger*, exists in the collection. The species is remarkably distinguished from every other I am acquainted with by its small size, slender form, long narrow head, with the snout very much produced and attenuated. The distance between the eyes is contained more than two and a half times between the eye and the extremity of the snout. The whiskers are very long. The dentition is for the most part similar to that of the *S. rusticus* described in a former paper. The fifth lateral incisor above is visible from without, and not out of the line. The ears are slightly larger than in the *S. tetragonurus*, and somewhat less concealed by the hair. The feet are much more slender than in the species last mentioned, but rather stronger than in the *S. rusticus*: the toes very bristly, the bristles projecting further beyond the roots of the nails than in either of the two species just alluded to: the claws sharp and curved. The tail is rather thick, roundish, and well clothed with longish hairs, which stand out at the sides, and form at the extremity a moderately long pencil projecting two lines or more beyond the bone. The colour of the upper parts is reddish brown or rusty; that of the lower greyish white, tinged with red. The lips and feet are white, tinged with reddish. The tail bright fulvous above, paler beneath.

Dimensions.

	In.	Lin.
Length of the head and body	2	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
——— of the head	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
——— of the tail	1	4
——— of the hind foot	0	5
——— of the fore foot	0	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
——— of the ears	0	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
From ear to eye	0	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
From ear to the end of the snout.....	0	8 $\frac{1}{2}$

This species appears to have been formerly involved in some obscurity; but its history has been well cleared up by Gloger,

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